Satellite Product Tutorials:

NexSat Browsing Basics

Product Selection Buttons

Region Selection

Recent/Upcoming Satellite Coverage

View Mosaic of Images

View Past Images

Loop Images

Tutorial
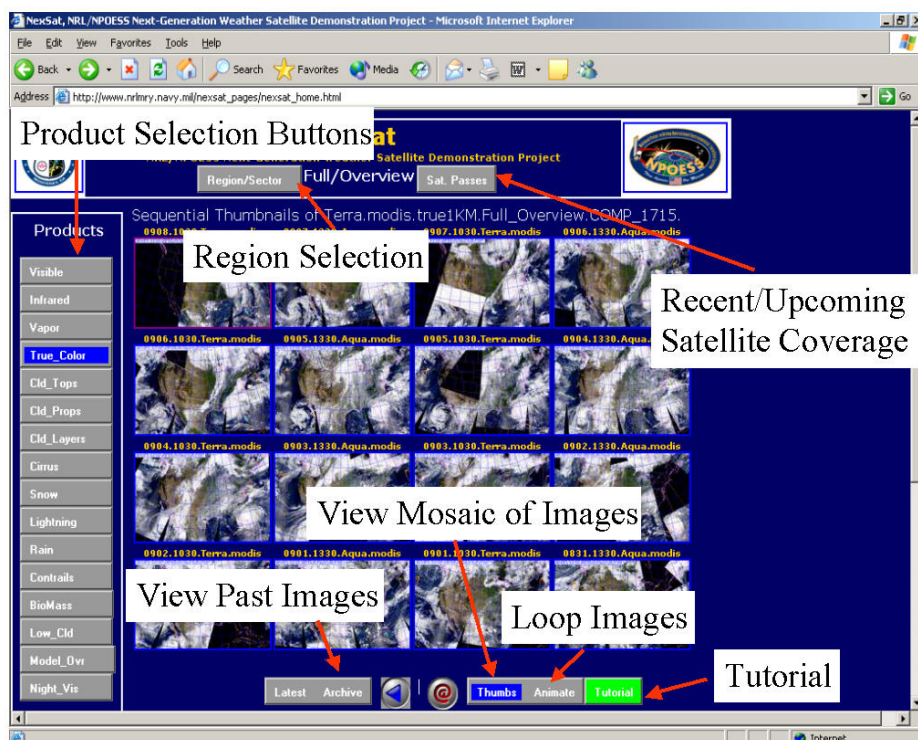
Above: It's easy to navigate through the *NexSat* browser to get the near-realtime satellite products of your choice. The different products are viewable with buttons on the left. At the top there are two buttons, one to select a region and sub-region (e.g., West/California) of interest, and another to preview the coverage of upcoming satellite orbits for that location. At the bottom are buttons that help you see more than one image. The Archive buttons allows you to view past images, often weeks and sometimes even months before the present. The Thumbs button allows you to view images as a collection of images, side by side. The Animate button allows you to make a loop of images; it's especially useful to animate the lightning images (button on left). Finally, the green button brings up a tutorial on the current product being viewed (see below).
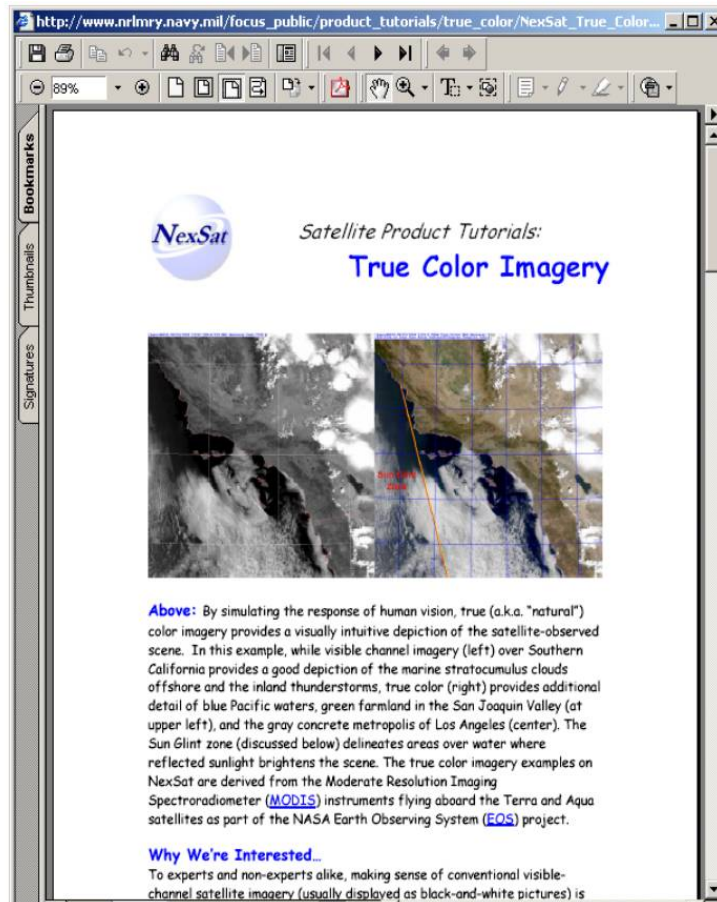
Above: If you select the green Product Tutorial ("Prod. Tutor.") button underneath the satellite imagery shown on the *NexSat* page, you will open a PDF file which explains a little about the product you are currently viewing. It gives annotated examples, interpretation guidelines, and lists improvements anticipated in the NPOESS era. You can download the PDF and store it on your own computer for future use.
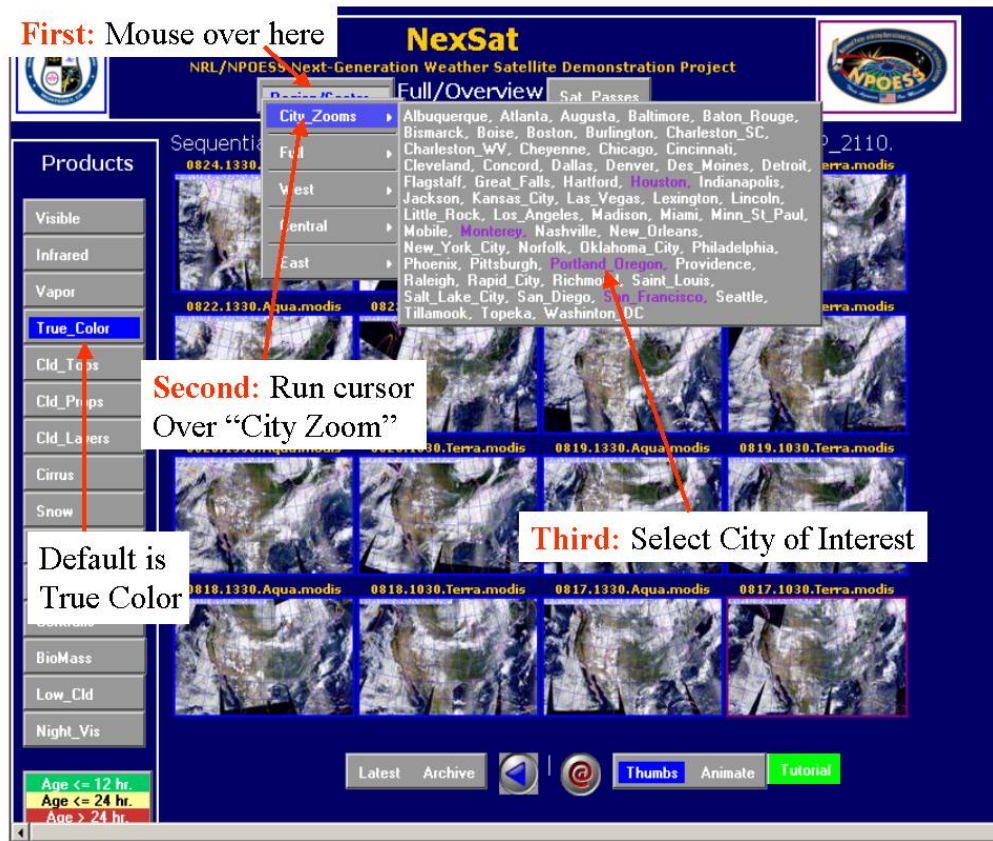
Above: Among the most popular features on *NexSat* are the "City Zooms", close-ups of major cities over the United States. They are MODIS true color images and are rendered at nominal 250 m spatial resolution. To select a city, first mouse over the Region/Sector button. Then, move your cursor over the City Zoom button which pops open on a menu. Finally, on the list of cities that appears, choose the city of your choice. On the menu above our choice was Portland, Oregon.

Portland, Oregon
Click on any thumbnail to expand into full image
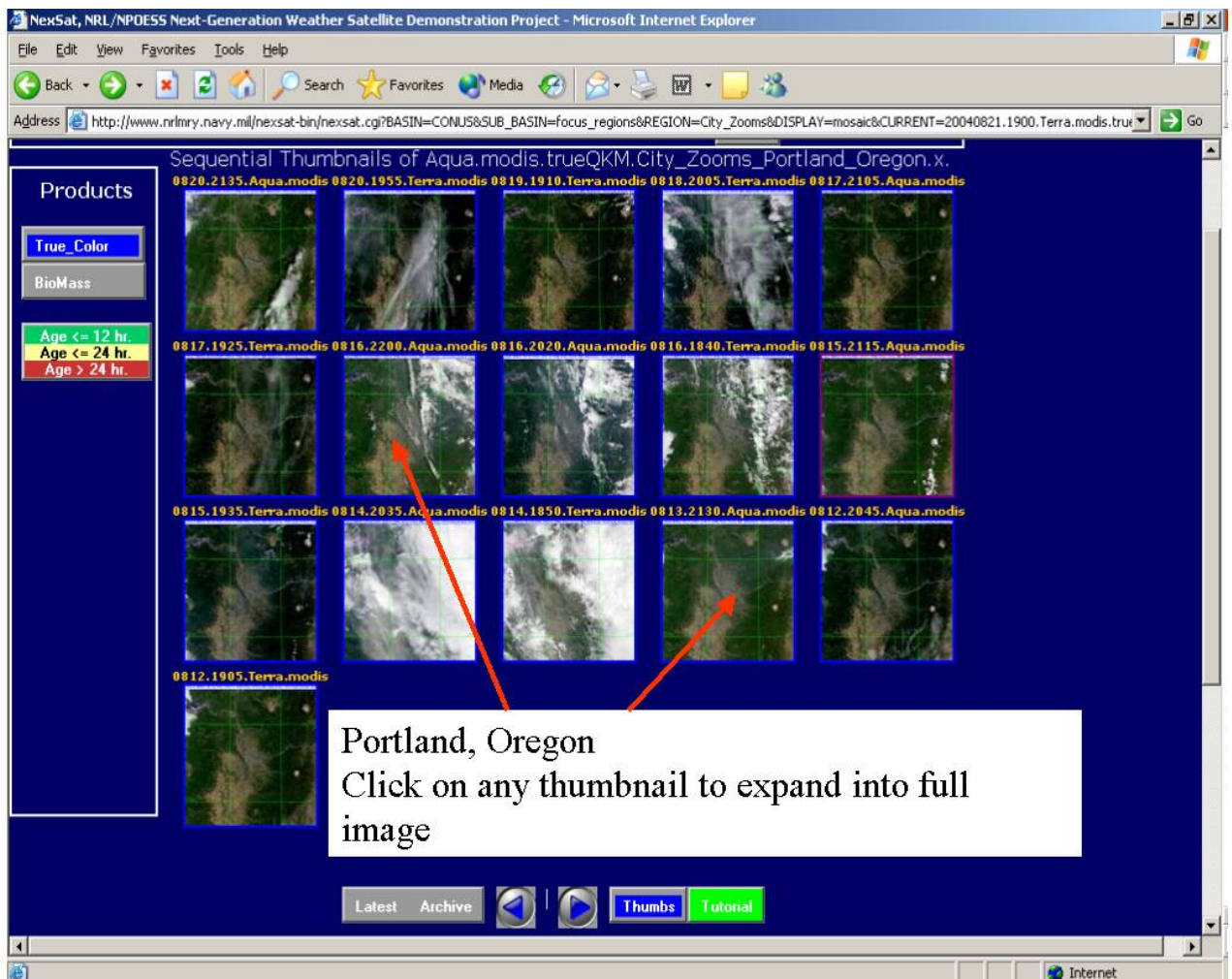
Above: If you currently have the "Thumbs" button selected, then a number of thumbnail images appear. These are recent images arranged in chronological order. Click one for an expanded view. If the "Single" button is selected, then only one (expanded view) image will appear. Select "Latest" to view the most recent single image, or "Archive" to view imagery stored over the past ~30 days.
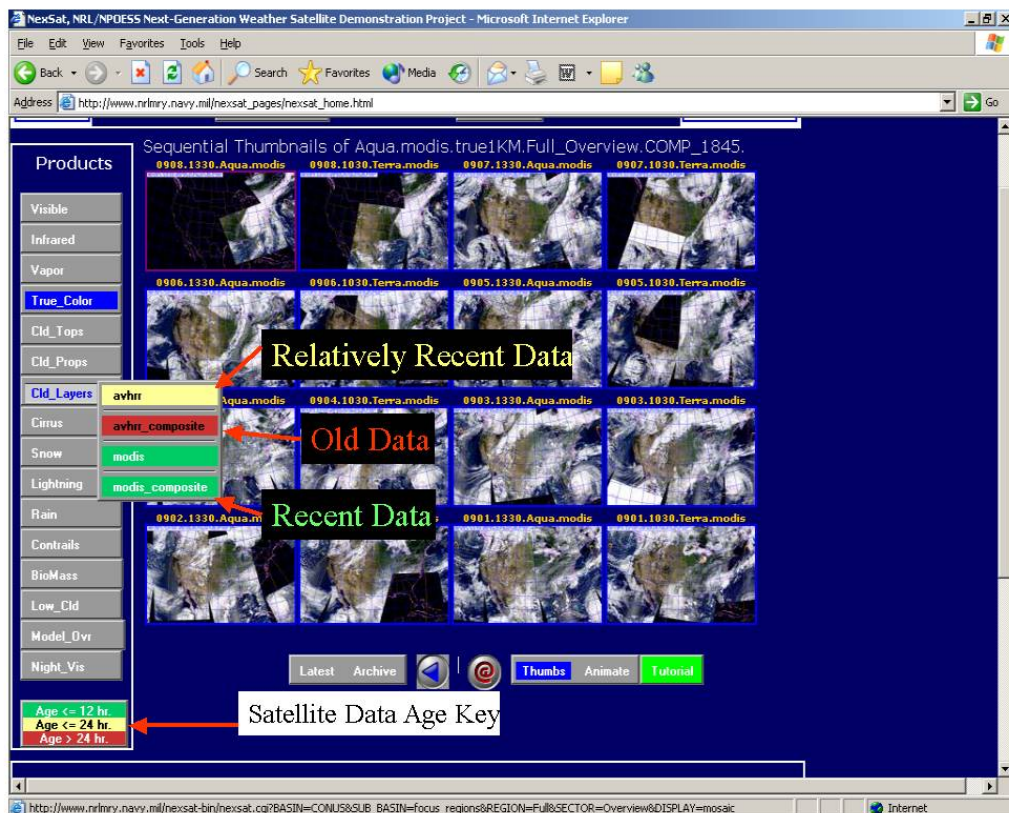
Above: Let's say you want to choose another product besides True Color which is the default. In the example, if you mouse over the Cloud Layers button, a menu appears which shows the different satellites that were used to make the product. The top buttons is "avhrr composite", from the NOAA AVHRR. The bottom button is "modis_composites", from NASA MODIS. Notice that the buttons are color-coded by timeliness (see key at bottom). Green means recent data (fewer than 12 hours old); yellow means intermediate age (between 12 and 24 hours old); and red means older than 24 hours.
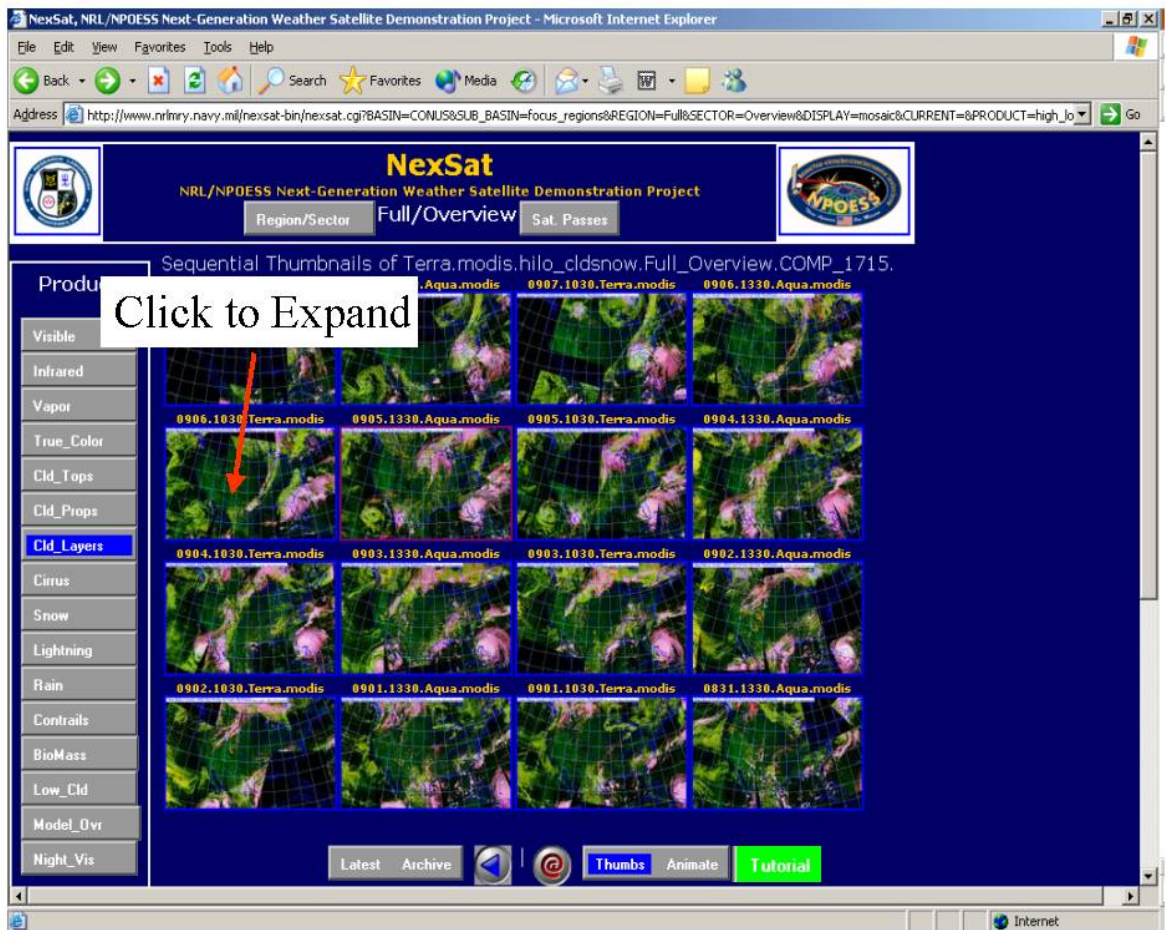
Above: In our previous choice of cloud layers, let's now look at the result of our selection. The sub-images which appear are called "thumbnails". Each can be expanded into a larger image simply by selecting it with your mouse.
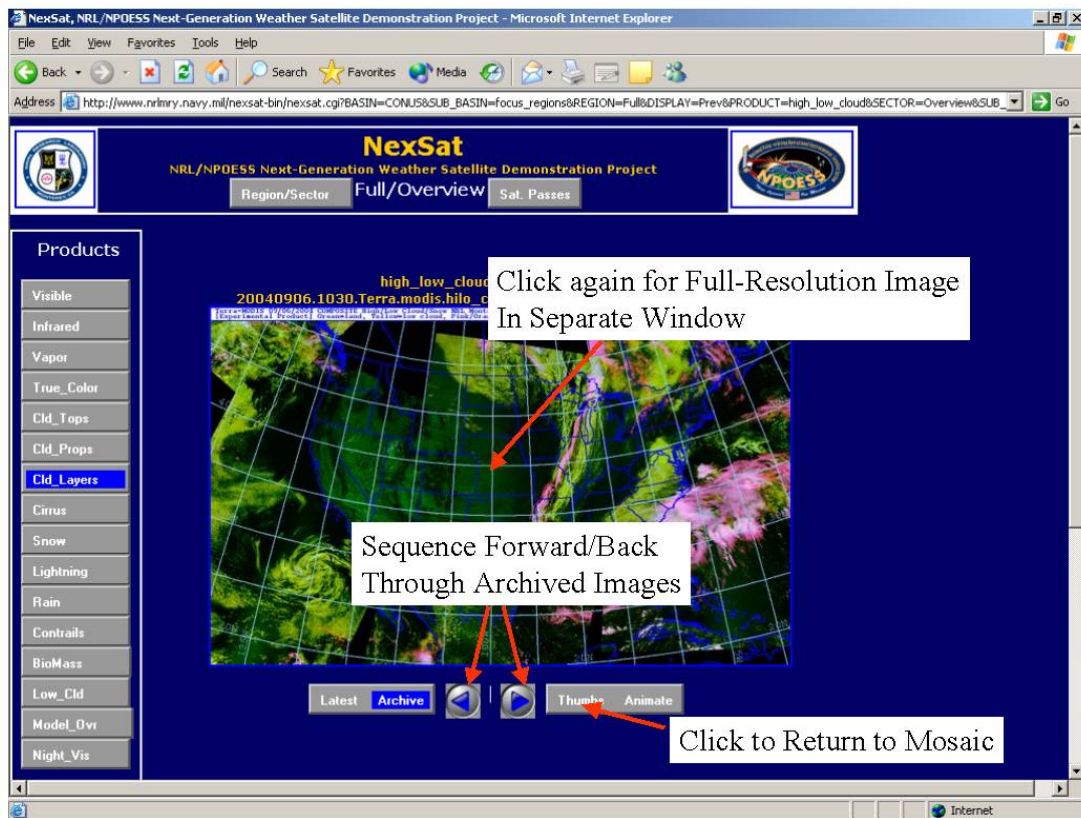
Above: When we expand the previous thumbnail, we get the larger image here. Click on the image again for a full resolution view, or click Thumbs to return to the mosaic style display of the previous graphic. Or use the arrows to navigate forward and backward in time through recent examples of the products.

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